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A list of outstanding dues presented. Treasurer requested to collect and “pay the same to Mr. Rob. Aitkin in part of his demand.”

1788. Jan. 4. (8 present; Franklin presiding.)

Drawing of a Marine Chevaux-de-frize by Robert Erskine, F. R. S., with description, presented by Franklin. Drawing of “a Boat to sail on Ice used in some of the northern countries of Europe.”

Print of a Nouveau Quartier de Reduction and pamphlet on the use of the Quadrant, by M. le B . . . . del'or, Prof. Math., Paris.

**ANNUAL ELECTION HELD.**

*President*—Franklin.

*Vice Presidents*—Ewing, White, Rittenhouse.

*Secretaries*—Hutchinson, Patterson, Magaw, Foulke.

*Council*—Ingersol, Blackwell, Kuhn, Pettitt.

*Treasurer*—Hopkinson.

*Curators*—Duffield, Bradford, Peale (C. W.).

1788. Jan. 18. (13 present.)

Committee to let “such parts of the Phil. Hall as the Society can spare”—Clifford, Hutchinson, J. Vaughan.

Committee for carrying on the building: Hutchinson and J. Vaughan added to it. “The said Committee . . . to consider of the objections . . . mentioned in a letter . . . from the Street Commissioners, respecting the stone steps in the front of the hall, and to take such order as . . . advisable.”

1788. Feby 1. (5 present.)

“After some conversation, adjourned.”

1788. Feby 15. (4 present.)

Geo. Wall, Jr., exhibited a “Trigonometer,” for the making and vending of which he had obtained a patent

from the Legislature of this State. Description and drawings.

1788. *March 7.* (11 present; Franklin presiding.)

“Special circumstances” considered, the Annual Oration was deferred to November.

“On the Notation of Music . . . by the common alphabetical characters,” by Mr. Patterson.

Certificates of membership ordered “to pass through the hands of the Treasurer,” before delivery.

Labels for books belonging to the Society ordered, for Mr. Patterson [Librarian].

Dunlap & Claypoole’s bill for printing Magellanic Conditions, 150 copies, and for advertising annual election, £1 .. 17 .. 6, ordered paid.

“Extreme embarrassment” caused Mr. Glass, the paper-maker, by the Society’s debt to him, reported by Mr. Atkin, the printer. Dr. Ruston and Dr. Magaw directed to see if the Treasurer held any funds, and if dues could not be collected. Meanwhile Franklin offers to settle Glass’ account, and be repaid from such collections.

1788. *March 21.* (5 present; Franklin, President.)

1788. *April 5.* (6 present; Franklin presiding.)

*Steamboat.*—Mr. Barton presented a pamphlet by James Rumsey, of Berkeley county, Virginia, styled “A plan wherein the power of steam is fully shown by a new constructed machine for propelling boats or vessels.”

1788. *April 18.* (18 present; Franklin presiding.)

John Hunter’s works presented, with a letter from himself. Thanks voted.

Model, draft and explanation of an improved Steamboiler, offered for the “annual [Magellanic] premium,” under the signature of X. Y.

Sir Joseph Banks returned thanks for election, and communicated "a very curious account of pure Iron in a metallic [sic] state, lately found in South America." Mr. Wm. Baker sent his thanks also.

Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Robert Davidson, of Carlisle, communicated by letter a drawing and description of a "Calf, a monstrous production."

Letters from Dilly, of London, and Aitken, of Philadelphia, respecting the printing of Transactions, Vol. II.

James Rumsey, of Virginia, sent by letter, drawings and descriptions of—

1. An improved Boiler for a Steam-engine.
2. An improvement in Dr. Barker's Grist-mill.
3. An improvement in the Saw-mill.
4. An improvement in Raising Water by means of a steam engine.

Henry Voight communicated by letter drawings and descriptions of various improvements in boilers for generating steam.

Committee on these papers: Ewing, Rittenhouse, Patterson.

A motion "to lower the rate of Admission money of newly-elected resident members, and also the annual payments or contributions of members," from next January 1st, onwards, was postponed to the next meeting.

1788. May 2. (8 present; Franklin presiding.)

Drawings and description of an improved Steam-boiler, for the M. P. received. Signature, "Retrograde."

The Committee on Inventions reported, that Rumsey & Voight's principle of increasing the steam-generating surface and diminishing the quantity of water exposed to the action of the fire, appears just, but the best application must be matter of experiment. And that Rumsey's other inventions were "ingenious in theory, and well deserve a full trial."

Benjamin Lindon, of Chesterfield, N. J., communicated, by letter, a description of an improved Universal Dial.

Dr. Greenway, of Virginia, wrote, describing the Golden Cassia, or Peacock flower.

1788. *May 16.* (8 present; Franklin presiding.)

Henry Crocker sent his pamphlet on Magnetism to Franklin.

Matthew Carey, through Mr. Barton, Le Blond's *Elementa de fortificatione*; Scaliger de subtilitate; Pseudofridericus Johannis Hildebrandi, &c.; and Geo. Fabricii, Rom. *Antiqua monumenta*.

1788. *June 20.* (6 present; Franklin presiding.)

Matthew Carey presented a short-hand Bible, and *Forme du Government de Suede*.

Franklin presented "a specimen of the ancient short-hand;" an engraving of the Duke de Chaulnes' improvement of Franklin's Electric Kite; and F. A. Eckhardt's description of his Canal Dredger; proposals of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c., of a premium for an invariable standard of Weights and Measures; a description of the Chinese method of making large sheets of Paper; and an account of Ingenhautz's experiments on the heat-conducting power of Metals, under Franklin's direction.

An essay on "a Universal Language" was offered for the Magellanic premium.

Daniel Byrnes' paper on an improvement for finding the Longitude by Lunar Observations, was read; and Ewing, Rittenhouse and Patterson appointed to test his instrument invented for the purpose.

Rediger's (Janitor's) account for £5 .. 4 .. 18, approved.

1788. *July 18.* (14 present.)

Franklin being "too much indisposed to attend," Dr. Dufield took the chair.

The Treasurer was authorized to exchange the paper-money in his hands on the most advantageous terms.

The Building Committee were instructed to inform the Street Commissioners that the Society was willing to enter an amicable suit, concerning the Fifth street front door steps, "presumed by the Commissioners to rise too high."

Also to be "a Committee of Ways & Means to consider of a method regularly to pay the interest as it shall become due upon the sums of money borrowed . . . of the President."

Ordered, that a notice be inserted in the regular advertisement of the meetings, that the consideration and passing of laws would constitute part of the business.

1788. August 15. (10 present; Franklin presiding.)

Two new Hygrometers from Nairne, of London, with a letter. One was ordered to be deposited with Mr. Legeaux for use, the observations to be published in his Meteorological Observations column in the *Columbian Magazine*.

A letter from Daniel Byrnes, "that he had constructed an instrument by which one person may take at one observation the distance of the sun and moon & the altitude of one of them." Referred to the former committee on a Byrnes instrument.

Franklin presented books, &c., from the Patriotic Society at Milan, sent him by its Secretary, Carlo Amoretti, for the purpose:—Spallanzani's Opuscules; Experiences . . . Generation; . . . sur la Digestion; lettres à Lucchesini.

Also, from M. Campomanes, of Madrid:—Fastos Ac. R. de la Hist., &c., Genesii opera; Velasquez's Medals, 1752; Oracions, 1759.

Also, Memoires of the Soc. Italiana, Verona; Mitterpager's Elementi, Milan, 1784; Carminati's Recherche, Milan, 1785; Atti Soc. Pat. Milan, duplicate; Bruni's Portatura di Gelsi, Milan, &c.

"Through some mistake, or derangement with respect to conveyance, the books and papers from Milan were not received 'till very lately, although sent above two years ago,

from Italy."—Secretaries ordered "to take the earliest opportunity" to return thanks and explain; and a copy of Vol. II Trans. of the American Philosophical Society to the S. P. Milan, through Dr. Rush.

John Anderson's Institutes of Physics, Glasgow, were received.

"The Corresponding Secretaries are desired to make particular report of all the answers to foreign communications & letters which they have already written, and sent, within the present and immediate preceding year. Meanwhile the Society expect, that as much dispatch as possible be observed, with regard to all letters at present requiring answers."

1788. *Sep. 19.* (10 present; Franklin presiding.)

A Wheel-boat, proposed to facilitate the navigation of North America; drawing and description; for the Magellanic premium.

On the language of Signals; a duplicate of a communication formerly received from a candidate for the premium.

Mandrillon's "Fragmens de Politique et de Litterature," with his letter, from Amsterdam.

Also: Recherches . . . sur les maladies . . . de St. Dominique . . . pub. par le Cercle des Philadelphes du Cap François, from the Society;—Campomanes' Dict. Español;—Priestley's Experiments, &c., Vol. III; and "elegant copperplate engravings of a Nouvel Hotel Dieu," by M. le Roy of Paris.

1788. *Oct. 3.* (8 present.)

Mr. Matthias Barton, of Lancaster, Pa., sent: "*Shells & nuts &c found at the depth of 7 or 8 feet in the body of a rock, upon the river Susquehanna,*" opposite Sunbury. Great quantities of petrefactions are daily found in the high rocky hill;—*Indian darts*, frequently found in the fields near Lancaster;—Water Birch bark, specimens;—*Bear's*

*gut*, when first cleaned, resembling a silk ribbon, and applied by the Indians to different uses.

1788. Oct. 17. (12 present; Franklin presiding.)

M. de Marbois sent from Port au Prince a copy of his *Etat des Finances de St. Dominique*.

Jas. B. Pleasant's, of Montgomery county, Pa., wished the Society's opinion on his proposed Balloons [*sic*] of metal, entirely exhausted.

John Napier's life and writings, from Earl Buchan;—and Dr. Persival's Essays, from the author.

The Building Committee were ordered to confer with "The Masonic Body in this City, or their Representatives, concerning their occupying, for a term of years, such part . . . . as the Philos. Soc. can conveniently spare . . . ."

Barton and Ellicott made a Committee to review the Constitution and Laws of the Society.

Treasurer authorized to employ a collector, at an allowance of £5 per centum on the moneys paid in to the Treasurer.

1788. Nov. 7. (15 present; Franklin presiding.)

Franklin directed to present to Magellan, Vols. I, II *Transactions American Philosophical Society*, and future volumes as published.

Swediaur's Observations on Venereal Complaints, from the author, through Ebenezer Hazzard, New York;—Ingenhausz's pamphlet on Atmospheric Electricity.

Report of Committee on Constitution and Laws; laid on the table.

Magellanic prize essays were referred "to the twelve counsellors and other officers."

Committee to confer with the Masons were ordered to inform them that the Act of Assembly would not permit "any part of building to be occupied in the manner that the Masonic Gentlemen have proposed."

Hutchinson and Rittenhouse were made a Committee to sell the lot in Arch street.

1788. Nov. 21. (18 present; Franklin presiding.)

"Looming" observed near Presque Isle, described in a letter from And. Ellicott, of Pittsburgh, to Dav. Rittenhouse.

Franklin's letter (from Passy, September 22, 1782) to the Abbé Soulavie, "containing a new & ingenious theory of the formation of the Earth,"—a copy of it was laid before the Society by Franklin.

De Warville's (J. P. Brissot) book on the relative situation of France and the United States, received from the author.

Building Committee authorized to treat with the Library Company of Philadelphia about leasing a part of the building to the Library Company.

The Premium Committee reported that (at Franklin's house) they had examined the "Dissertations & Pieces:"—Wheel-boat; Nautilus; Steam engine by "Retrogade;" steam engine by "X, Y;" finding longitude; and Magnetical globe—and submitted the final adjudication thereon to the Society. They reported an essay in French "For the improving of signs & finding out an universal language," which must be translated "before they can form a proper judgment concerning it."

Dr. Foulke's annual oration was ordered for "some time during the next session of the General Assembly, in the month of February."

The report of the Committee to review the law of membership, laid on the table, was read again. Also their report on Contributions was read finally.

Membership law, as amended and passed:—

"A law to alter the Second Section of the Laws," &c.

"WHEREAS, the mode of electing members . . . . found . . . . attended with many inconveniences;

*Be it therefore enacted*, and it is hereby enacted, that from and after the passing of this law, the Election of Members of the said Society, shall be

by Ballot, of at least thirteen Members duly qualified to vote, and which number shall be sufficient, on the third Friday in the months of January, April, July and October respectively ; and at such other stated or ordinary meetings of the Society, as the Members then convened may appoint. But previously to the holding of any Election of new Members, the sitting or attending Secretaries for the time being, or one of them, shall, on the day preceding the intended Election, send to the house, or dwelling place of each member residing within the city of Philadelphia, a written or printed Notification, of the time & place when and where such Election shall be proposed to be held.

And any member may, at any meeting of the Society, propose such person or persons as he may think proper, to be a Member, or Members thereof. But no person shall be ballotted [sic] for, unless his name, together with the name or names of the Member or Members who propose him, shall have been fixed up by the Secretaries, for View of the Society, at the two meetings immediately preceding the time of Election. Nor shall any person be deemed duly elected, unless three-fourths of the Votes of all the Members present be in his favour. Every person so elected shall be entitled to all the Rights and privileges of the Society ; any thing in any former law of the said Society, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Enacted, this 21st Day of Nov<sup>ber</sup> 1788

Another law was then amended and passed :—

“A law to alter the law entitled ‘A law to increase the annual Subscriptions of the Members’ &c.

“WHEREAS, by a law . . . . enacted . . . . 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1786 . . . . four dollars annually . . . . and whereas it is found expedient that the annual contribution . . . . be lessened ;

“Be it enacted . . . . that . . . . the annual contribution . . . . be two dollars, and no more.”

1788. Dec. 5. (11 present ; Franklin presiding.)

Premium award laid over.

1788. Dec. 19. (13 present ; Franklin presiding.)

Rittenhouse and Patterson to review Treasurer’s accounts and settle.

Translation of the French essay read and laid over.

A short paper on Facts and Experiments by the author of the Spring Block prize essay, read.

Certificate of G. Ludlam, and J. Pollock . . . . ac-

quainted with the nature and construction of Sea Vessels . . . . experimented with the Spring Block, applied to a small pleasure boat . . . . "approved of the principles, and are of the opinion that if the Springs can be properly applied, they will increase the active elastic impetus of a Vessel's rigging, & therefore assist in sailing, especially in turning to windward."

1789. *Jan'y 2.* (12 present; Franklin presiding.)

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

*President*—Franklin.

*Vice Presidents*—John Ewing, D.D., Wm. White, D.D., Dav. Rittenhouse.

*Treasurer*—Hopkinson.

*Secretaries*—Hutchinson, Patterson, Magaw, J. Vaughan.

*Counsellors*—Pettit (C.); Rush, Jones, M.D., G. Duffield, D.D.

*Curators*—S. Duffield, Wm. Bradford, Charles W. Peale.

Rittenhouse and Hutchinson, Committee to agree finally with Jos. Ogleby and Math. Sadler (who proposed to buy the Arch street lot) on the best terms.

1789. *Jan'y 16.* (19 present.)

Auditing Committee reported £3 .. 13 .. 5 specie, and £9 .. 17 .. 6, paper, balance due the Society in the hands of the Treasurer.

Rittenhouse's letter to Patterson on a number of curious observations on the regularity of the motions of the heavenly bodies, read.

Humphrey's (Jos.) letter to Rittenhouse, with a drawing of a Regulator of Pendulums, read.

Arch Street Lot Committee reported that they had agreed finally with Ogleby and Sadler, who agree to pay £525, "or do carpenters work in the building on the State House Square to the amount . . . . at their opinion ; the Society